Living Ecological Justice:

A Biblical Response to the Environmental Crisis

Edited by Rev. Dr. Mishka Lysack and Karri Munn-Venn

An ecumenical worship and action guide on creation care.

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Sr. Sheila McKinley
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CGC
BS660
.L59
2013

A publication of *Citizens for Public Justice*

Praise for *Living Ecological Justice: A Biblical Response to the Environmental Crisis*

"'The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,' says the Psalmist. But our society's awareness of this truth has eroded, and it has only been in the last two generations that our theology has tried to address that fact. In this thoughtful collection, some of the brightest and most reflective writers on the subject can inspire us to move more intentionally from a posture of dominion to a posture of both advocacy for and care of creation – a creation so beloved that God chose to enjoy it personally in the incarnation of Jesus Christ."

The Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson,
Anglican Archbishop of Toronto

"Creation care is an under-developed theme in many Christian churches. This book more than fills a gap; it enables Christians to integrate their love for God and love for the earth – and live it out."

Kathy Vandergrift,
Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

"*Living Ecological Justice* is exactly the resource we need to give biblical and theological depth to our actions concerning climate change and related issues. Readily accessible and useable, it illustrates that ecological justice calls for a Christian response in prayer, worship, and action. I look forward to using it in my presentations on the spirituality of climate change. Thank you to CPJ and the contributors to this timely book."

The Very Reverend Dr. Bill Phipps,
Former Moderator of The United Church of Canada

"As Pope Francis said, 'The vocation of being a "protector" involves everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world.' Here is a worthy effort to unpack what this can mean biblically. I intend to make this book a serious reading project, a reading that leads to change and action."

Monseigneur Paul-André Durocher,
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Gatineau

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Scripture quotations are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* or the *New International Version*.

Design: Pao Quang Yeh

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Living ecological justice : a biblical response to the environmental crisis / edited by Rev. Dr. Mishka Lysack and Karri Munn-Venn.

Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 978-0-9686695-2-5 (pbk.)

1. Human ecology--Biblical teaching. 2. Environmental protection--Biblical teaching. 3. Human ecology--Religious aspects--Christianity. 4. Environmental protection--Religious aspects--Christianity. 5. Christianity and justice--Canada. I. Lysack, Michael David, editor of compilation II. Munn-Venn, Karri, 1972-, editor of compilation

BS660.L59 2013 261.8'8 C2013-905280-1

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Contributors

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Leah Kostamo is the author of *Planted: a Story of Creation, Community and Calling*. She writes on creation care themes at leahkostamo.com. Leah works alongside her husband, Markku Kostamo, with A Rocha, a Christian conservation organization committed to the transformation of people and places. A Rocha is equipping churches across Canada to care for creation through its Good Seed Sunday project (goodseedsunday.com), as well as running conservation, education, and sustainable agriculture programs in B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Mary Rowell, CSJ is a Sister of St. Joseph. She teaches theology at the University of Toronto and is on the retreat team at Villa St. Joseph Retreat Centre in Cobourg, Ontario, where with Sr. Linda Gregg, CSJ, she is involved in ecological initiatives. Growing up in England in a family of gardeners she developed in childhood her deep love of the land and found in it the God of all life.

Wayne Groot grows potatoes on some very productive soil in the Edmonton area. His livelihood is being challenged by urbanization and industrial growth due mostly to the rapid exploitation of the oil sands. Whether he is driving his tractor or hoeing his garden, he often wonders about his place in feeding the world. He worships at Fellowship Christian Reformed Church.

Sr. Sheila McKinley, OSU has been a member of the Ursuline Religious of Chatham for over 40 years. For 26 years she worked educating students at the elementary and secondary level. Sheila now works primarily with small groups leading reflections in the areas of spirituality, justice, and Scripture. As an Ursuline, Sheila has been involved in areas including consensus building, networking with and supporting women, especially women at risk, and Earth justice. She currently serves on Citizens for Public Justice's board of directors.

Dr. Sylvia C. Keesmaat is Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity College, Toronto, and an instructor in the Creation Care Studies Programme in Belize. She is the co-author, with Brian Walsh, of *Colossian Remixed: Subverting the Empire*, and editor of *The Advent of Justice*. Sylvia lives on an organic, solar-powered farm in Cameron, Ontario.

Joy Kennedy has worked in Poverty, Wealth and Ecological Justice for The United Church of Canada, and KAIROS. She chairs the Commission on Justice and Peace of the Canadian Council of Churches and is involved in the Canadian Interfaith Conversation, the World Council of Churches and many justice networks. She is on the boards of the Climate Action Network (CAN-Rac), and Green Communities Canada. The well-being of her grandchildren and all the world's children inspires her passion and love for the whole precious Earth community.

Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald is the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop of Canada, a position to represent and minister to Indigenous Anglicans, to represent, in the church and the larger society, the living relationship of the people to the land, and working to implement the vision of the elders for an Indigenous expression of the faith and discipleship of Jesus.

Rev. Dr. Charles Fensham is professor of systematic theology and mission at Knox College, Toronto School of Theology, at the University of Toronto. He was born in South Africa and has been ministering and teaching in Canada since 1988. He is part of the global working group, "Christian Faith and the Earth" which focuses on ecological theology.

Shaun Loney works for Building Urban Industries for Local Development (BUILD) and Aki Energy. He is the author of *BUILD Prosperity: Energizing Manitoba's Local Economy.* He is an active member of The United Church of Canada.

Willard Metzger is the Executive Director of Mennonite Church Canada. He is eager to engage with leaders, congregations, students, young adults, and business entrepreneurs to share in the task of shaping the church in Canada. He has served in Christian leadership roles for over two decades and has extensive experience speaking in settings across a wide diversity of Christian expression.

Carol Thiessen serves on the board of Citizens for Public Justice. She is a senior policy advisor for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger.

Karri Munn-Venn is a Policy Analyst at Citizens for Public Jusice, exploring the challenges and proposing solutions to social, economic, and ecological injustices. She attends All Saints' Anglican Church (Westboro) in Ottawa, along with her husband and three young children.

Rev. Dr. Mishka Lysack is an Anglican priest in the Anglican Diocese of Calgary. At the University of Calgary, he is an associate professor where he teaches social work and environmental issues in the Faculty of Social Work. He is also an adjunct assistant professor in Medicine, and teaches on a graduate level in Environmental Design. Mishka's teaching and research interests are in the areas of environmental action and education, renewable energy and resilient communities, and creation advocacy and spirituality.

Joe Gunn is the Executive Director of Citizens for Public Justice. He has worked for many churches and church organizations, in Canada and Latin America, and he was director for the Social Affairs office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. He is a passionate proponent of social, economic, and ecological justice.

Archbishop James Weisgerber (Catholic, Winnipeg), Pastor Ryan Andersen (Lutheran, Calgary), and Dave Toycen (World Vision Canada) also contributed original prayers.